

REMARKS

Counsel thanks Primary Examiner E. Kim and Examiner C. Harmon for the courtesy of an interview held on September 28, 2004.

At the interview, the differences between the claimed invention and the primarily applied reference of *Hirtl* were discussed, namely:

1. In the claimed invention, the piston is moved rearwardly relative to the housing by the resetting mechanism upon recoil, whereas in *Hirtl*, the piston 6 stays in the forward position, i.e., the piston 6 remains stationary relative to the housing 1. (It is the piston guide or barrel 4 that moves forward under the action of the compression spring 23 to set the piston 5 to the rear position within the piston guide 4).

2. In the claimed invention, the piston is reset to the prior-to-firing position automatically (by means of the resetting mechanism), whereas in *Hirtl*, the piston 6 and piston guide 4 are moved manually into the housing upon cocking the gun.

The first difference has been discussed in detailed in the "Remarks" section of the unentered Amendment filed September 9, 2004. The Examiners kindly suggested that the second difference, i.e., the "automatically" limitation, be positively recited in the independent claims. This Amendment paper includes the Examiners' suggested claim amendment.

In particular, the claim amendments presented in this Amendment paper are identical to those presented in the unentered Amendment filed September 9, 2004, except that claim 2 additionally recites --displacement means for automatically displacing the engagement means rearwardly--. The "automatically" limitation has already been claimed in another independent claim, i.e., claim 14. The arguments advanced in the unentered September 9, 2004 Amendment are incorporated herein by reference.

It should be noted that the above amendments have been made solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution and are not necessitated by the Examiner's rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the finally rejected claims are clearly patentable over the currently applied art of record, for the reasons advanced in the previously filed Amendments.

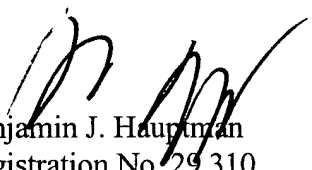
Early indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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